

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 03228 191432Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02  
MCT-02 IO-13 PC-01 SCS-06 CA-01 OC-06 CCO-00  
OMB-01 ACDA-12 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04  
SIL-01 /125 W

-----093230 201212Z /46

R 182240Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7140  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, NU  
SUBJECT: EVENTS IN NICARAGUA: 13-16 JULY

REFS: (A) MANAGUA 3183, (B) MANAGUA 3428

SUMMARY: BETWEEN 13-16 JULY THERE WERE SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF GON  
AND ANTI-GON VIOLENCE AS WELL AS PEACEFUL PROTEST AND POLITICAL  
REVOLUTIONARY ACTS. THE ONE-DAY OCCUPATION OF THE OFFICES OF PAN  
AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION IN MANAGUA ENDED WITHOUT INCIDENT.  
THE PARTIAL ELECTORAL REFORM WAS SIGNED BY SOMOZA AND ORDERED  
PRINTED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE, THEREBY BECOMING EFFECTIVE.  
TWO GEOGRAPHICALLY-SEPARATE ASSAULTS ON ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL  
GUARD (GN) OCCURRED ON THE SAME NIGHT, RESULTING IN ONE GN DEATH  
AND INJURIES ON BOTH SIDES. "THE TWELVE" CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE  
AN ABILITY TO DRAW LARGE CROWDS. THROUGHOUT URBAN NICARAGUA BOMBS  
AND DISBURBANCES CONTINUED. THE OFFICES OF LA PRENSA WERE AGAIN  
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 03228 191432Z

SHOT UP, THIS TIME, APPARENTLY BY A MACHINE GUN. END SUMMARY.

1. A ONE-DAY OCCUPATION OF THE OFFICES OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION IN MANAGUA (REFTEL A) WAS PEACEFULLY ENDED WHEN THE  
OCCUPIERS ABANDONED THE BUILDING. A GROUP OF TEACHERS HAD OCCUPIED  
THE OFFICE BUILDING AROUND 8:00 AM AND DEPARTED ABOUT 5:00 P.M.  
ON JULY 13. THE TEACHERS WERE PROTESTING THE "TRAMPLING"

OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE BY THE GON. VARIOUS WELL-KNOWN PERSONAGES, INCLUDING THE ARCHBISHOP OF MANAGUA, WERE PRESENT TO WITNESS THE PEACEFUL DEPARTURE OF THE TEACHERS.

2. ALSO ON 13 JULY, THE NATIONAL CONGRESS APPROVED THE ELECTORAL REFORM PACKAGE AS RETURNED TO IT BY SOMOZA (REFTEL B) THE APPROVED LEGISLATION WAS SENT TO SOMOZA WHO SIGNED IT ON 14 JULY AND IT BECOMES EFFECTIVE UPON PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT THE SAME DAY, RAUL ARANA MONTALVAN, CONSERVATIVE PARTY SENATOR, MOVED IN THE CONGRESS A SUSPENSION OF ACTION ON THE REFORM INITIATIVE UNTIL A COMMISSION OF THE CONGRESS COULD MEET WITH SOMOZA TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN WITH THE STATE OF EVENTS. THE LIBERALS HASTILY APPROVED THE COMMISSION IDEA AND NAMED ARANA AND TWO LIBERALS TO IT. HOWEVER, AS THEY IGNORED ARANA'S REQUEST FOR DELAY ON THE ELECTORAL REFORM, HE HAS ANNOUNCED HIS INITIATIVE WAS STILLBORN AND HE WILL NOT SERVE ON ANY COMMISSION TO MEET WITH SOMOZA.

3. ON JULY 15, TWO ASSAULTS OCCURED ON ELEMENTS OF THE GN. IN CATARINA, A TOWN SOUTH OF MASAYA, A GROUP PRESUMED TO BE FSLN ATTACKED THE GN HEADQUARTERS AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED A SARGEANT WHO WAS ALONE THERE. SEVERAL RIFLES AND AMMUNITION WERE TAKEN BY THE ATTACKERS. IN THE MASAYA DISTRICT OF MONIMBO, A GN LIEUTENANT WAS KILLED WHILE TRAVELING BY CAR IN THE COMPANY OF HIS WIFE AND SISTER-IN-LAW, WHO WERE BOTH INJURED. SEVERAL ELEMENTS IN THE SECOND ASSAULT REMAIN UNCLEAR. THE GN LIEUTENANT WAS IN CIVILIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MANAGU 03228 191432Z

CLOTHES AND IT IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME IF HIS VEHICLE CARRIED THE DISTINCTIVE GN PLATES AND, THEREBY, ALERTED HIS ATTACKERS TO HIS IDENTITY. IT APPEARS THAT THE ATTACK WAS NOT PLANNED, BUT THE RESULT OF THE LIEUTENANT'S ATTEMPTING TO TRANSIT AN AREA WHERE DEMONSTRATORS HAD ERECTED BARRICADES. AMONG OTHER POINTS REQUIRING FURTHER CLARIFICATION ARE THE FOLLOWING: WERE THE CONTACT BOMBS THAT DESTROYED THE LIEUTENANT'S VEHICLE THROWN BEFORE THE CAR RAN THE BARRICADES AND CRASHED OR AS A RESULT OF THE LIEUTENANT'S ATTEMPT TO RAM THE BARRICADES? THE LIEUTENANT'S BODY BORE EVIDENCE OF WOUNDS FROM BOMB SHRAPNEL AS WELL AS MACHETE BLOWS AND NAIL PUNCTURES, PUMMELING, ETC., RAISING SPECULATION OVER WHETHER HE WAS STILL ALIVE WHEN DEMONSTRATORS DRAGGED HIM FROM THE CAR. IT IS KNOWN THAT THE LIEUTENANT WAS ARMED, AND AT LEAST TWO OF HIS ATTACKERS WERE REPORTEDLY WOUNDED. IT SEEMS LIKELY HE FIRED IN SELF-DEFENSE, BUT THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE LED TO THE VIOLENCE OF HIS ATTACKERS.

4. MEANWHILE, THROUGHOUT NICARAGUA, PROTESTS AND DISTURBANCES CONTINUED. ON 16 JULY, THE EIGHT BOMBING INCIDENT IN THE PAST WEEK OCCURED IN LEON. ALL OF THESE BOMBINGS HAVE BEEN AT NIGHT AGAINST THE HOUSES OF GON OR LIBERAL PARTY MEMBERS. THEY HAVE RESULTED IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, BUT NO PERSONAL INJURY. COMATT WAS TOLD

BY AN OFFICIAL OF STANDARD FRUIT THAT, IN CHINANDEGA, ON 15 JULY A CAR BELONGING TO A GIN OFFICER WAS BLOWN UP ON A RESIDENTIAL STREET. NO ONE WAS INJURED. THE SAME SOURCE REPORTED THAT ON 16 JULY THERE WAS MACHINE GUN FIRE NEAR THE RESIDENCE OF A LIBERAL PARTY DEPUTY, ALSO IN CHINANDEGA. AGAIN, NO ONE WAS INJURED.

5. "THE TWELVE" APPEARED IN ESTELI ON 16 JULY, DRAWING A "CROWN OF THOUSANDS" ACCORDING TO LA PRENSA. "THE TWELVE" HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT OF THE UPCOMING WORK STOPPAGE SCHEDULED FOR 19 JULY. "THE TWELVE" APPEAR TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO DRAW SUBSTANTIAL AUDIENCES, THEREBY MAINTWINING THEIR VISIBILITY AND VIABILITY AS MAJOR ACTORS IN THE OPPOSITION.

6. ON JULY 16, LA PRENSA REPORTED THA, THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MANAGU 03228 191432Z

CAR WITH THREE OCCUPANTS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MACHINEGUNNING OF ITS OFFICES. NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED. AS EXPECTED, LA PRENSA ATTRIBUTED THE ATTACK TO GON SUPPORTERS. THE 17 JULY NOVEDADES DEPOSED THE ATTACK, BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT LA PRENSA WOULD CHANGE ITS EDITORIAL POLICIES WHICH "PROVOKED" SUCH ATTACKS.

7. COMMENT: THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE SEEN A CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL TURMOIL AND DISTURBANCES. WHILE MOST OF THE VERY SERIOUS DISTURBANCES CONTINUE TO BE IN THE "USUAL" PLACES (SUCH AS MONIMBO & LEON), THEY REFLECT THE HIGH LEVEL OF TENSION NATION-WIDE. AN EXTREMELY DISTURBING NOTE IS THE FURTHER ATTACK ON LA PERNSA. SO LONG AS THE ASSAILANTS REMAIN UNIDENTIFIED, THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH LA PRENSA CAN EXPLOIT TO RATIONALIZE ITS FREQUENT, VENEMOUS EDITORIAL ATTACKS ON THE GON. ATHTHE SAME TIME, IT FURTHER DIMINISHES ANY POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTIVE ATTEMPTS AT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. SOLAUN

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION

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## Message Attributes

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